

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

**July 23, 2009**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on July 16, 2009 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending July 22, 2009 in the amount of **\$254,669.00** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of July 16-22, 2009
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from June 6-July 20, 2009
- Statement of receipts and expenditures from the Finance Office for June 2009
- Report from the Zoning Board of Appeals from July 20, 2009
- Statement of cash receipts from the Public Library for June 2009

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Valentine

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS:**

None

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$924,016.09 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

None

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**7. OTHER ITEMS**

**A. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF FIRE FIGHTER TO BRETT ENEY EFFECTIVE THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2009.**

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to close the following Capital Projects: H3410.28 2005 Public Service Equipment, H3410.29 2005 Public Service Buildings, H5110.91 2000 Street Construction Project, H5110.92 2000 Bridge and Riverfront Maintenance, H5110.08 2005 Street Resurfacing Project, H5110.12 2005 Upper Bridge St Reconstruction, H5110.14 2006 Storm Sewer Construction Project, H5110.16 2006 Bridge and Riverfront Maintenance, H7020.14 2004 Recreation Department Facilities, H7220.35 2004 Recreation Complex Facilities, H8120.24 2005 Sanitary Sewer Construction Project.

By Councilor Carpenter; Second by Councilor Valentine  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to award Bid 2009-5-1 Sale of Surplus 2.4/4.16 KV- 120/240V Transformers to T&R Electric Supply

Company at a total value of \$14,163.46.

By Councilor Kelly; Second by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**D. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Engineer to award Contract #2009-08, "Single Broom Vacuum Street Sweeper/Catch Basin Cleaner" to Bahr Sales at a total cost of \$230,699.00.

By Councilor Rabideau; Second by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**E. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Councilor Kelly to develop an "Adopt a Spot" program in the City of Plattsburgh.

By Councilor Kelly; Second by Councilor Jackson

Discussion:

**Councilor Valentine** asked to table the item until the application is complete.

**Councilor Kelly** said he didn't have a problem with that. Also the City Engineer just emailed some additions that he will add to the application.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**F. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves to amend the budget to reflect \$425,000 revenue and appropriate it to the following accounts: Capital Project (utilities, etc.) for state paving of Oak and Catherine Streets \$250,000; 1131 2200 Finance Equipment, payroll system upgrades \$80,000; 1131 4430 Finance Contracted, part of cost of bond re-rating \$5,000; 1755 4430 Celebrations, for Quad Banners etc. \$15,000; and Retirement Reserve \$75,000.

By Councilor Calnon; Second by Councilor Jackson

Discussion:

**Councilor Jackson** said the \$250,000 had to go to state a road which is why Oak and St. Catherine Streets were chosen.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## 8. TRAVEL REQUESTS

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Officer Peter Williams to attend the “2009 Annual Child Passenger Safety Conference” in Lancaster, PA from September 9-11, 2009 at a cost not to exceed \$506.00 which will be paid out of Asset Forfeiture Fund.

By Councilor Calnon; Second by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## 9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

None

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## 10. NEW BUSINESS

**Councilor Valentine** said that Zuke’s Deli owners told her they were impressed with the Police Department with how fast the case was solved and how professional they were. Valentine had a meeting with her Ward Residents that reside at Set Point and they complained about the increase in instances with open container, loitering, and overgrowth of vegetation. It has made it hard to be comfortable walking on the trail. Valentine spoke with the Mayor and wanted to thank him, Public Works, MLD, the Police and Recreation because within 24 hours everyone stepped up.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said our departments did an outstanding job in little time. The Chief and his staff have been handling so many different situations and to solve two crimes back to back in 24 hours is incredible. Kasprzak said they have worked very hard and it is appreciated.

**Councilor Carpenter** said he was approached by a dozen people to congratulate the Police Department. They were amazed by the response and quickness and professionalism.

**Councilor Jackson** said he was proud of how as a Council the budget has been straightened out as well as the Capital Projects and the bond rating. However the Charter states that the Council can serve up to eight years but that doesn’t match to what the Council has practiced and is practicing which is serving at 3 year terms. Jackson suggested we change the Charter to say nine years instead of eight years. Jackson is also bothered that the entire table could turn in one election. Jackson believes it takes time to get used to the position so suggested changing the ballot to have two Councilors getting elected each year. The voters

would have to pass this. The Council would pass a local law and then 60 days later the community can vote on it. The Board of Elections has to approve the language and Corporation Counsel is looking into all the details.

**Councilor Carpenter** said it's a good idea and the Council should pursue it. There are something's to work out but we should move forward with this.

**Councilor Kelly** thinks it's a good idea. Kelly has some concerns. In 2007 there was not a good turn out at the polls. Kelly thinks that if the elections were the same as the national elections more people will come out to vote therefore have four year terms but have elections every two years for half the Council.

**Councilor Calnon** said voter turn out is very important. We ultimately don't get to make the decision so we should pursue this quickly and get a sense of how voters feel about terms. Calnon said we have a few elections under our belt so we should know if our behavior would be different with four term or a two year.

**Councilor Carpenter** said a two year term is too short. It takes a year or a year and half before you actually get an enough understanding before you know what you're doing.

**Councilor Valentine** said it cost money to run a campaign so a four year term is reasonable.

**Councilor Kelly** said elections cost money and if we have one every year it costs the Board of Elections and tax payers money.

**Councilor Carpenter** said there are elections every year maybe not in the City but in the County.

**Councilor Valentine** said we don't do a great job orienting Councilors so maybe we should have a decent orientation process.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said he was on the Council when the Charter changed and he supported term limits. Kasprzak said if you do your job well enough people will come out and vote. Kasprzak said he doesn't have an opinion on whether to go back to two years or not but he thinks four years is too long. Some times people are not accountable when it is that long.

**Councilor Kelly** thanked Mike Brodi for cleaning up Bouyea Street.

**Councilor Calnon** said each change in term limit should be voted separately so this needs to move quickly to go through all the items.

**Mayor Kasprzak** announced that the City got a \$500,000 grant for city rehabilitation. Thank you to the Community Development staff and the Commissioner of DCHR.

**Councilor Carpenter** thanked the Community Development also.

**Councilor Rabideau** read the electronic disposal bans announcement. See attached sheet. Suggested we might think about having a city wide disposal day.

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Calnon  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 6:04 p.m.